Rehabilitation package for farmers of A.P. and T.N.

743. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a package for rehabilitation of farmers of Andhra Pradesh is being given;

(b) if so, whether the package will be extended to other States, especially the Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The announcement made by the Government on 18th June 2004 not only envisages increase in Ground Level Credit flow to agriculture and allied activities by 30% during 2004-05 and doubling the flow in three years, but also provide for following relief measures:

i. Debt restructuring/rescheduling and fresh loans for distressed farmers.

ii. One Time Settlement (OTS) for small and marginal farmers.

iii. Fresh credit to farmers whose earlier debts have been settled through compromise or write off.

iv. Loans for farmers indebted to non-institutional lenders.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriclture and Rural Development (NABARD) have already issued guidelines on 24th June and 29th, June 2004 to Commercial Banks and Rural Cooperatives and Regional Rural Banks respectively to provide relief to farmers as per the announcement. The rehabilitation package announced by Government is applicable to the farmers in all the States of the country, including Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Concessions for revival of handloom sector

744. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of Andhra Pradesh weavers have sought certain concessions and measures to revive handlooms, handicrafts and power looms in the unorganized sector; and